

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /121 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3336

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6197

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL FOLLOW-UP: NAC DISCUSSION ON FORMAT OF MEETINGS

1. IN NAC DISCUSSION DECEMBER 19 SYG LUNS PROPOSED THAT A PRIVATE MEETING AMONG MINISTERS BE SCHEDULED AS THE FIRST RATHER THAN ONE OF THE LATER ITEMS ON FUTURE NAC MINISTERIAL AGENDAS. MINISTERIAL PROCEEDINGS SHOULD BE FURTHER ALTERED TO DO AWAY WITH FORMAL GENERAL STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS IN FAVOR OF LESS FORMAL DISCUSSION OF ITEMS AS THEY APPEAR ON THE AGENDA. LUNS SUGGESTED THAT TRANSLATION CAPABILITIES COULD BE DEVELOPED TO OVERCOME THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM CITED BY SOME DELEGATIONS AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO THEIR MINISTERS' PERSONAL PARTICIPATION IN INFORMAL SESSIONS SUCH AS THE KIND HE WAS PROPOSING. HE ASKED THAT PERMREPS GIVE THOUGHT TO HIS SUGGESTIONS WITH A VIEW TO CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS ON IMPROVING FORMAT OF MINISTERIAL MEETINGS.

2. ONLY IMMEDIATE COMMENT CAME FROM CANADIAN PERMREP (MENZIES) WHO MADE PERSONAL OBSERVATION THAT PROBLEM WITH MINISTERS PRIVATE MEETING DECEMBER 10 STEMMED FROM MISUNDERSTANDING ON HOW MEETING WAS TO PROCEED. A POSSIBLE CORRECTIVE MEASURE MIGHT BE TO CIRCULATE LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE PRIVATE MEETING IN ADVANCE. MENZIES
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ALSO SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY FOUND IT USEFUL TO HEAR U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE'S OVERVIEW STATEMENT COVERING SUCH THINGS AS U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS.
PRENDERGAST

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